

UTOPIA

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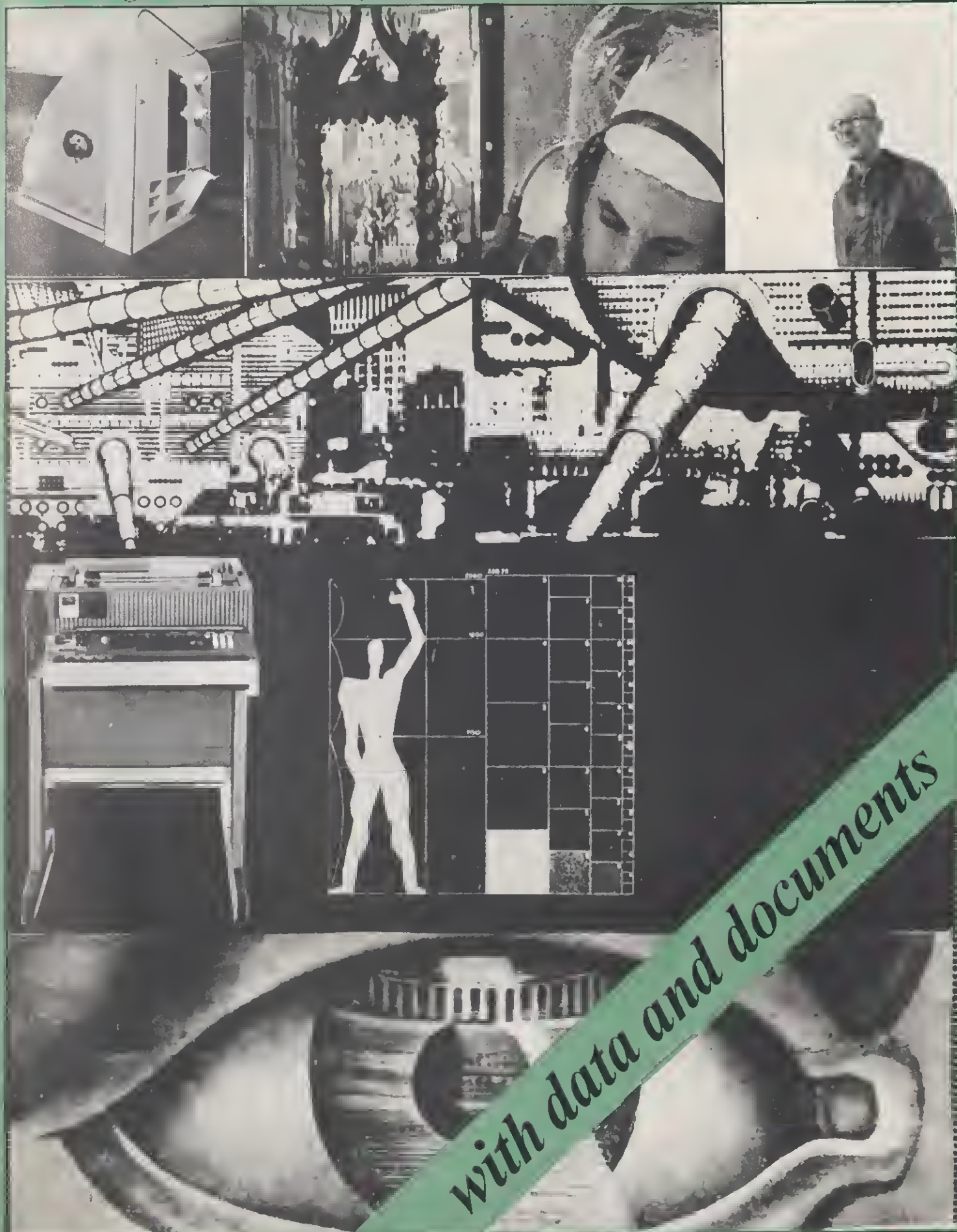
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ARCHITECTURE TODAY APPEARS TO THE ARCHITECT AS A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WHICH PROCEED ACCORDING TO SET REGULATIONS AND WHICH ARE CLOSED TO ANY SORT OF INNOVATIVE ATTEMPT THAT MIGHT BE LIMITED TO AN INTERVENTION IN THE ARCHITECTONIC SPECIFIC.

IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD, NOT ONLY IN ITALY BUT AT LEAST ALSO IN THE INFLUENTIAL AREAS OF THE WESTERN WORLD, THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE MADE BY ARCHITECTS COINCIDED WITH A SERIES OF LOST CHANCES, OF INTERRUPTED ACTIONS, OF UNEMPLOYED EFFORTS, IN OTHER WORDS, OF FAILURES. AND IN OBSERVING THIS CRISIS TODAY, IT APPEARS THAT THE DETERMINING ELEMENT IS NOT THE WEAKNESS OF THIS OR THAT ARCHITECTURAL THEORY OR OF THIS OR THAT PROPOSAL; BUT IT SEEMS RATHER THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATIONS HAS BEEN MOVED INTO A FIELD WHICH IS FOREIGN TO THE ELABORATIONS OF THE WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE. IT APPEARS THAT THE EXISTING CAPITALIST SYSTEM IN FORCE TODAY HAS RENOUNCED, IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY ITS ACTIONS, THE UTILIZING OF PROPOSALS, THE EXPERIENCES, THE EXEMPLIFICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE SPECIALIZED WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE OR HAS AT LEAST MADE SO LITTLE AND POOR USE OF THEM THAT THEY ARE NO LONGER RECOGNIZABLE.

THE CHANGE OF INTEREST FROM ARCHITECTURE TO TOWN PLANNING, WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE CULTURE OF THE 1950'S, CAN BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER AN OPERATIVE SPACE WHERE A LOST CREDIBILITY CAN BE REFOUND. BY CHANGING "DIMENSIONS", IT SEEMED POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER ACTION RIGHT TO THE HEARTH OF THE DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM OF THE CITY AND TO RELOCATE IN THE DYNAMICS OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORCES, A SPACE FROM WHICH NEW ELABORATIONS AND PREFIGURATIONS, NEEDED TO HALT AND CONTROL THE PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE TERRITORY, COULD BE REPROPOSED WITH OPPORTUNE VARIANTS AND DEVELOPMENTS. IT IS EASY TO POINT OUT HOW EVEN THIS ATTEMPT FELL SHORT OF ITS OBJECTIVE EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE CONSIDERED POSITIVE JUST THE SAME INsofar AS IT CONTRIBUTED TO MAKE EVIDENT REAL CONTRADICTIONS OF THE PRODUCTIVE BUILDING SYSTEM. THESE CONTRADICTIONS, IN FACT, IF TAKEN ON THE LEVEL OF THE SINGLE ARCHITECTURAL WORK, IN THE DEBATE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORM AND FUNCTION, WERE ON THE VERGE OF BEING REDUCED TO THE INEFFABLE; BUT THEY APPEARED, HOWEVER, IN ALL THEIR DRAMATIZATION, ON THE LEVEL OF GREAT URBAN INTERVENTIONS AND CORRESPONDING MOVEMENTS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CAPITAL.

BUT THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, EVEN THOUGH IT RELINQUISHED THE MASKING OF ITS ACTIONS BEHIND ILLUMINISTIC IDEOLOGIES OF THE "MODERN MOVEMENT", CONTINUED TO "BUILD" CITIES ADHERING TO REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY ITS OWN LOGIC. SO THE CITY TODAY DOES NOT EVEN ATTEMPT ANYMORE TO PRESENT ITSELF AS A SYMBOLIC OR CELEBRATIVE "OBJECT" AND MUCH LESS AS THE PROP FOR A DESIGNED FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION. IT HAS BECOME A HUGE MARKET WHEREIN THE AREAS, THE BUILDING PRODUCTS, THE SERVICES HAVE ALL BEEN REDUCED TO CONSUMPTION GOODS ON SALE, TO BE USED AT LEAST PROFITABLY WITHIN THE GLOBAL SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION.



THE PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO TECHNICS AND ART WHICH SHOULD RELIEVE THE ARCHITECT OF THE FRUSTRATION OF THE DIVISION OF LABOUR FALLS UNDER THE PRESSURE OF DYNAMIC ECONOMY, WHICH PRESIDES OVER THE REALIZATION OF THE CITY.

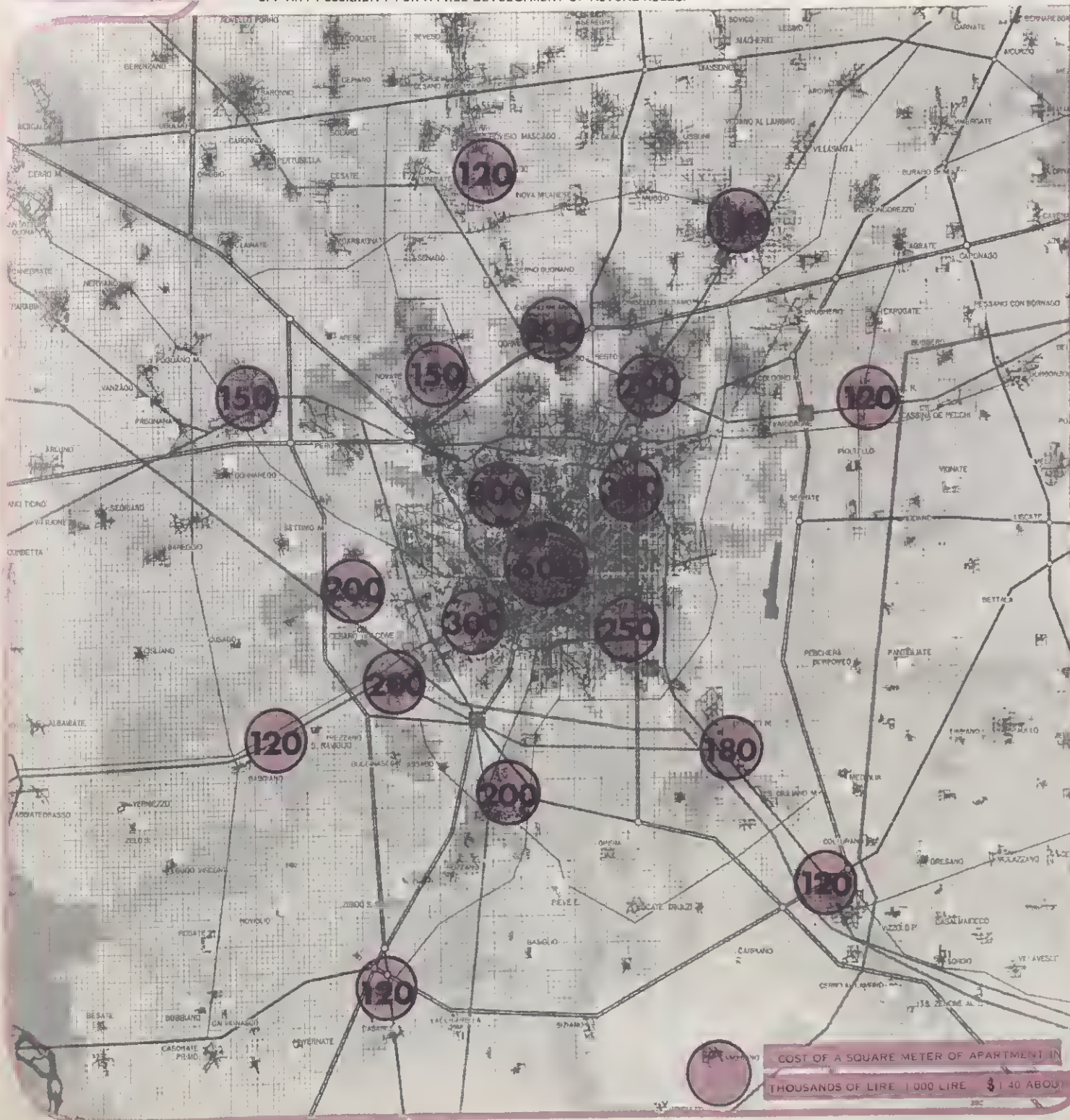


THE LABOUR OF ARCHITECTS REQUIRES NOT ONLY TECHNICAL SKILL, BUT ALSO THE AVAILABILITY OF THOSE SERVICES THAT INCLUDE THE SUPPLY OF AREAS ON WHICH IT IS EASY TO SPECULATE, THE SEARCH FOR FUNDS, ARRANGEMENTS WITH BUILDING CONTRACTORS, THE SALE OF APARTMENTS, ETC.





THE FREE-LANCE ARCHITECT, BEARER OF THE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF THE "MODERN MOVEMENT", CONVINCED OF HIS CAPACITY TO MOVE WITH EASE IN THE WORLD OF ART AND CONSTRUCTIVE TECHNICS, USED TO THINK HE COULD REPRESENT AN INFLUENTIAL FORCE WITHIN THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION PROTECTED BY PROFESSIONAL ORDERS AND BY ESTABLISHED ECONOMIC AND DEONTOLOGICAL RULES, THE ARCHITECT EXPLAINED HIS FUNCTION, CREATING THROUGH HIS OWN WORK, QUALITATIVE MEASURING STICKS TO BE APPLIED TO THE BUILDING ACTIVITY MEASURING STICKS WHICH WERE MEANT TO CURB THE VIOLENCE OF ECONOMIC FORCES IN THE NAME OF ALTERNATIVE ARCHITECTONIC AND URBANISTIC VALUES BUT THE PRIVILEGE OF THIS PROFESSIONAL CASTE, BASED ON THE PRESUMPTION OF FULFILLING A DEMIURGICAL ACT OF MEDIATION BETWEEN THE CONTRADICTIONS OF THE SOCIAL SYSTEM AND OF BEING ABLE TO REMAIN STRONG IN HIS CAPACITIES OUT OF THE ALIENATION PRODUCED BY THE DIVISION OF LABOR, HAS NOT HELD OUT AGAINST THE PRODUCTIVE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BUILDING SECTOR INDUCED BY AN ABNORMAL ACCELERATION OF THE GROWTH OF THE CITY THE RISE IN LAND PRICES, THE BUILDING SPECULATION AND THE DYNAMISM WITHIN THE CITY PRODUCED BY THE EXPANSION OF THE RELATIVE MARKET, HAVE PRODUCED SUCH A GREAT NUMBER OF MOVEMENTS OF CAPITAL AND HAVE PRODUCED SUCH INCREASED REVENUES THAT THE ECONOMY DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN PERSUADED TO FACE THE BUILDING PROBLEM BASING THEIR PLANS OF ACTION ON CULTURAL AND POLITICAL FORCES WHICH ARE MORE CONSISTENT THAN THE MEAGER AND AMBIGUOUS CONGREGATION OF ARCHITECTS, THE BIG BATTLES PRO OR CON THE VARIOUS URBANISTIC LAWS, FOR THE DIMENSIONMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS, FOR THE TABLES OF GROUND EXPLOITATION, ETC., PASS BY CHANNELS WHICH ARE FOREIGN TO THE SPECIFIC WORLD OR ARCHITECTURAL DEBATE, THE OLD TERMS OF THE ARGUMENT, THE PROPOSALS OF THEORIZERS AND THE MODEL ACTIONS, NAMELY THE APPARATUS, IN GENERAL, OF THE INTELLECTUAL ELITE OF ARCHITECTS IS UNABLE TO KEEP ON FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRACTICE CONSTRAINED BY A CONDITIONALITY ALMOST TOTALLY OUTSIDE ITS CONTROL CAPABILITIES, THE CITY GROWS UNDER AN UNDERGROUND AND CAPILLARY IMPULSE OF ECONOMIC FORCES AND "ARCHITECTURE" AND "TOWN PLANNING" FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH A PRODUCT FOREIGN TO THE PREVIOUSLY DECLARED INTENTIONS, HAVING BEEN DEVELOPED WITH NO REFERENCE TO THE RECOMMENDED METHODOLOGIES, EVEN THOUGH SUBJECT TO COMPROMISE, THE CITY WITH ITS UNREMOVABLE PHYSICAL CONDITION, WITH ITS FORMAL VULGARIZATIONS, WITH ITS FUNCTIONAL FAILURES BECOMES THE LIVING CERTIFICATE OF THE FAILURE OF THE "ARCHITECTONIC SCIENCE" AND, CONSEQUENTLY, IN RE-ESTABLISHING PRIVILEGES, INTENTIONS AND IDEOLOGIES, IT BECOMES THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF FRUSTRATION WHEREIN THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK TAKES PLACE, UNDER THE EFFECTUAL PRESSURE OF THE ECONOMIC FORCES USED, ARCHITECTURAL WORK IS EVERMORE CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS OF ONLY A FEW DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS, IN FACT, IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE QUALIFYING DESIGN OR THE RESOLVENT IDEA THAT COUNTS ANYMORE, WHAT COUNTS NOW IS THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN FROM THE FORCES IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE POSSESSION THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF TERRAIN WHICH CAN BE BUILT UP IN THE LEAST TIME POSSIBLE, THE LAW OF PROFIT BECOMES THE ONLY REAL REFERENCE POINT WHICH INCLUDES THE ROLE TO WHICH CONTEMPORARY "ARCHITECTURE" HAS BEEN REDUCED: THE MARKET VALUE HAS UNDERMINED THE USE VALUE THUS SHUTTING OFF ANY POSSIBILITY FOR A FREE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTUAL NEEDS.



IN VIEW OF STRUCTURAL CONTRADICTIONS IN THE CITY AND OF A PROLETARIAN TRANSFORMATION OF THE TECHNICAL ROLES, ARCHITECTS TRY TO LIMIT THEIR ACTIVITY INSIDE THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONGREGATIONS: UNIVERSITIES



...EXHIBITIONS...



...BOOKS & MAGAZINES...



THE ANALYSIS OF THE REALITY OF THE CITY AS A MARKET AND OF THE INVOLUTION OF ARCHITECTURAL CULTURE. TAKING FOR GRANTED THE DEGENERATION OF THE PHYSICAL STATE OF THE LAND AND OF THE BUILDING PRODUCT OF THE MASSES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE CERTAIN HYPOTHESES FOR THE CRITICAL SETTLING IN OF AVANTGARDE OR EXPERIMENTAL OR ELITE ARCHITECTURE; IN OTHER WORDS, THAT SORT OF "ARCHITECTURE", GENERALLY SPEAKING, GEARED TOWARD THE ATTEMPT AT FINDING WITHIN THE SPECIFICS OF THE VERY FIELD OF RESEARCH OR INTERVENTION A WAY TO OPPOSE, OR AT LEAST TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPPOSING OF, THE CONTINUOUS WASTE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. (AND THIS INSERTION INTO THE DISCUSSION SEEMS TO BE STILL MORE JUSTIFIED AS THIS CRITIQUE IS MEANT TO ACCOMPANY A CATALOGUE FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION; THAT IS, AN ATTEMPT TO SORT OUT, ACCORDING TO CERTAIN PARAMETERS, ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS CONSIDERED VALID).

IF IT TRUE THAT "ARCHITECTURE MUST ARTICULATE ARCHITECTURAL MEANINGS TO DENOTE FUNCTIONS", BUT THAT IN TRYING TO DEVELOP THESE OPERATIONS HE REALIZES THAT THE REFERENCE FRAMEWORK (OR CODE) WHICH PERTAINS TO HIM DOES NOT COVER WITH ITS PARTICULARS THE FIELD OF INSTANCES WHICH THE SOCIAL SYSTEM ADVANCES. IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS MADE AWARE THAT "THE SYSTEM OF FUNCTIONS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL LANGUAGE, BUT IS COMPLETELY OUTSIDE OF IT" AND IS FOUND INSTEAD IN OTHER CULTURAL SECTORS WHICH OPERATE ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT CODES. NAMELY, THIS AFFIRMATION CONFIRMS, FROM A SEMEIOLOGICAL STANDPOINT, WHAT COMES OUT OF THE READING OF THE DEGRADATION OF THE CITY. THE ARCHITECT SEES, IN REALIZED ARCHITECTURE, THE REFLECTION OF HIS VERY IMPOTENCE. IN FACT, HAVING SET OUT TO "WORK OUT THE TOTALITY" OF THE PROBLEM, HE NOW FINDS HIMSELF PLAYING THE MINOR CRAFTSMAN OF IRELEVANT TECHNICAL OR FORMAL INTERVENTIONS. BESIDES THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, WITH ITS INSTITUTIONS, TENDS NOT ONLY TO MAKE HIM RESPONSIBLE CALLING ON HIM NOT TO CHOOSE BUT TO CONFIRM ACTUAL SITUATIONS BROUGHT ON BY THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODE OF CAPITALIST PRODUCTION WHICH HE IS FORCED TO SUFFER. A MORE IMMEDIATE ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME (OR BETTER YET TO FLEE FROM) THESE SAD CONDITIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THAT OF ACCEPTING THE CHANGE OF INTERESTS TO OUTSIDE THE ELEMENTS CONTROLLABLE BY TRADITIONAL CODES OF ARCHITECTURE. THE ARCHITECT BECOMES "SOCIOLOGIST, POLITICIAN, PSYCHOLOGIST, ANTHROPOLOGIST, SEMEIOLOGIST, ETC."; THAT IS, HE TRIES, THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELDS, THROUGH GROUP EFFORTS, TO RECOVER AN "EFFICACY" WHICH HE SEES VANISHING WITH HIS INTERVENTION, BUT THIS EXTENSION OF THE ANALYTIC BODY TO INCLUDE OTHER DISCIPLINES HAS LED, IN THE BEST OF SITUATIONS, TO THE VERIFICATION OF INCONGRUITIES BETWEEN DISCIPLINARY GROUPS AND HAS SHOWN THAT THE RECOVERY OF A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE TOTALITY OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION CANNOT TAKE PLACE BECAUSE OF THE VAST NUMBER OF FIELDS OF SECTORIAL ANALYSIS.

THIS ATTEMPT AT COMING TO TERMS WITH THE WHOLE OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION, PASSING AGAIN THROUGH A GENERALIZATION OUTSIDE OF THE REALITY OF REALIZED ARCHITECTURE, RISKED HAVING AS THE SOLE FINAL SOLUTION THE RENUNCIATION OF THE SPECIFIC ROLE OF THE ARCHITECT FOR ANOTHER TYPE OF MILITANCY. RATHER, IF IT IS TO ARCHITECTURE THAT WE WANT TO REFER (KEEPING IN MIND THE PROBLEMATIC AREAS CONNECTED WITH OUTSIDE DISCIPLINES), THAT IS, TO THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF THE ARCHITECTURE PRODUCT, THEN IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE STIMULI WHICH ARRIVE FROM THE "OUTSIDE" WITH THE FIELD OF VARIATIONS CONTEMPLATED BY ARCHITECTURAL ACTIVITY. THE INTERLOCUTORS CANNOT BUT BE THE ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING THE PHYSICAL FORM OF THE CITY STARTING FROM THE REALITY OF THEIR SELF-CONSTITUTION, AND THE READING OF THE CITY BEING THE STABLE SYMBOL OF ANTIARCHITECTURE, BECOMES THE REFERENCE POINT FOR THE ELABORATION OF ANY SORT OF CONTROL PROPOSAL FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, AND FURTHERMORE, A PROPOSAL CAN BE BASED ONLY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROMINENT CHARACTERISTICS WHICH THIS READING HAS REVEALED. STARTING WITH THE CONCRETENESS OF THE CITY, AND AGAINST THE BLOCKING OF NEEDS, THE ARCHITECT BEGINS TO GIVE FORM TO A NEW UTOPIA: HE PREFIGURES PHYSICAL ORGANISMS WHERE THIS VERY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FUNCTIONS PUT INTO FORM AND NEEDS BECOMES THE VITALIZING ELEMENT OF THE CITY. IN PLACE OF THE STATIC CITY, MONUMENT TO BUILDING SPECULATION, WE WANT TO SUBSTITUTE A DYNAMIC MODEL WHICH CONTAINS IN ITSELF THE POSSIBILITY OF SHOWING A SUFFICIENTLY VAST REPERTORY OF POSSIBLE ATTITUDES. IN A SIMILAR MECHANISM, THE "BASE", THAT IS, THE USER IN GENERAL, SHOULD REGAIN THE CAPACITY FOR DEMANDING WHAT HE NEEDS FROM THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURES AND HE WILL BE ABLE TO DO IT INsofar AS HE WILL NOT HAVE BEFORE HIM A BULKY MONSTER COMPOSED OF WEIGHTY UNCHANGEABLE PARTS WHICH BLOCK ANY SORT OF ACTION. HE WILL HAVE, RATHER, A SERIES OF FACILITIES READY TO ANSWER FUNCTIONAL, VARIABLE REQUIREMENTS. THESE FACILITIES WILL BE SO FORMAL AS TO "APPEAR" ONLY WHEN THEY ARE CALLED INTO SUIT, ASSUMING THE PARTICULAR ASPECT WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE PARTICULAR FUNCTION CHOSEN IN A WIDE REPERTORY, IN ANY GIVEN MOMENT, BY ANY CERTAIN USER. IN MOMENTS OF INACTIVITY, THE FACILITIES BECOME AN INFORMATIVE SYMBOL OF A REQUEST REPERTORY TO WHICH THEY CAN ANSWER, AND THE CITY, AS MOMENTS OF REALIZATION OF THESE REQUESTS IN EACH MOMENT, "GIVES FORMS" TO THE DIALECTIC OF THE NEEDS OF ITS INHABITANTS.

STUDIES IN THIS DIRECTION HAVE BEEN DIVERSIFIED NOT SO MUCH FOR THE OBJECTIVE TOWARD WHICH THEY WERE AIMED (AN OBJECTIVE WHICH CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS THE GIVING BACK TO THE INDIVIDUAL THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS HIS VERY NEEDS IN TERMS OF PSYCHO-PHYSICAL NECESSITY) BUT FOR THE FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE OF THE ANALYSIS AND FOR THE INSTRUMENTS PROPOSED. IF THE MOTIVE IS THE FRUSTRATION FOR THE FAILURE OF ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL THE EXPANSION OF THE METROPOLIS, WITH THE CONSEQUENT "EXPLOSION OF THE CITY", THEN THE SUPPORTING IDEOLOGY IS THAT OF THE RADICALIZED SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. THEIR ARGUMENT IS BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT THE WEAK POINTS OF THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION ARE OF METHODOLOGICAL SORT. IN ACCUSING THE USUAL POLITICAL PRAXIS OF SHORTSIGHTED PRAGMATISM, ALTERNATIVE THEORETICAL STRUCTURES ARE PROPOSED TO BREAK THE CLOSED CYCLE OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND MARKET AND WHICH ARE SUSTAINED BY RESEARCHES CARRIED ON IN NEW FIELDS CAPABLE OF SINGLING OUT MORE ILLUMINATING INSTRUMENTS FOR THE READING AND DESIGNING OF PHYSICAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN THE SUGGESTED METHODS INCLINE TOWARD INDICATIONS WHICH COME FROM STRUCTURALISM, FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS AND LANGUAGE STUDIES THEORY, THEY ARE NONETHELESS UNIFIED BY THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE PROCEDURAL ASPECT OF THE PHYSICAL ORGANIZATION. IN PARTICULAR, IN OPPOSING THE "UNITARY PLANNING SYSTEM" AN "ADAPTABLE PLANNING SYSTEM" AIMS AT GIVING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHOICES TO DECISIONS MADE DEMOCRATICALLY AT THE BASE AND WITHIN THE INSTITUTIONS. CERTAIN VARIATIONS OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD MUST CORRESPOND TO THE DYNAMISM OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE BECOME TRULY DEMOCRATIC AND CAPABLE. THAT IS, THAT CONTINUOUSLY QUESTION THE REFERENCE FRAMEWORK OF VALUES, THE "PUTTING INTO FORM" OF THE TERRITORIAL MODIFICATIONS MUST WORK IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO IMPEDE CHANGES, BUT BE CAPABLE OF FORESEEING THEM IN ALL THEIR POSSIBILITIES.

IN THIS SEARCH FOR A CONTINUOUS "ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTABILITY" THAT IS, FOR THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS WHICH ALLOW (THE POSSIBILITY) "THAT WHEN THE CHANGING OF THE LIFE PATTERNS BECOMES DESIRABLE, THEN THE CHANGE CAN OC-



...EVENTUALLY COLLOCATING THEIR ROLES AND RESULTS INSIDE THE LOGIC OF THE MARKET AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE REPETITION OF THE IDEOLOGY OF THE CAPITALISTIC CITY

CUR WITH THE MINIMUM OF EFFORT AND POSSIBLY WITH NO SORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE" ATTENTION IS DIRECTED OUTSIDE OF THE TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES OF CITY PLANNING, ZONING, CONSTRUCTION INDEXES, DIMENSIONAL LIMITS, SERVICE AREAS, ETC., ARE COHERENT WITH A STATIC VISION OF THE TRADITIONAL CITY; NAMELY THAT CITY WHICH OPPOSES WITH ITS PERMANENCE THE PROCEDURAL POINT OF VIEW THAT WE WANT TO PRIVILEGE. THE NEW TERMS FROM WHICH WE MUST DEPART ARE TO BE FOUND RATHER IN THOSE "ASPECTS" OF THE URBAN ORGANISM WHICH HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPAND IN SPITE OF THE STATIC CONDITIONS OF THE CITY, ASPECTS WHICH ARE BASED ON THOSE INDIRECT MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS WHICH CAN EXIST BY VIRTUE OF AN IMPALPABLE "PHYSICALNESS... THE AUDIOVISUAL MEANS, THE QUOTATION, "THE RESEARCH ON THE URBAN SYSTEMS OF COMMUNICATION SEEMS TO FURNISH GREATER RESULTS UNDER THE FORM OF MORE PENETRATING EXPLANATIONS THAN RESEARCH IN THE MORE TRADITIONAL FIELDS, BASES, ON THIS HYPOTHESIS, A STUDY GEARED TOWARD PROVING THAT THE "CITY IS AN OPEN SYSTEM WHICH, IN ORDER TO REMAIN VITAL, MUST CONSERVE A NEGATIVE ENTROPY", (INFORMATION). ON THIS HYPOTHESIS WE TRY, TO PROVE THAT "PROXIMITY" IS A NEED WHICH HAS BEEN OVERCOME, AND THAT THE CITY, ESPECIALLY, IN THE AREAS MOST ENDOWED WITH COMMUNICATION MEANS AND THEREFORE WITH WIDESPREAD INFORMATION AVAILABILITY, TENDS TO NEGLECT THE DISTANCE FACTOR; THE FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT THUS TEND TO BE INDIFFERENT TO LOCALIZATION. THIS NEW ANALYSIS PARAMETERS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO PROPOSE A READING OF THE TERRITORY BASED ON ELEMENTS WHICH NEGLECT THE PHYSICAL WEIGHTS OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE CITIES AND WHERE SPACE IS NO LONGER SEEN AS AN OBSTACLE TO COMMUNICATIONS. THE "SPACE" WHICH THE CITIZEN OWNS IS THAT CONNECTED WITH THE RELATIONS WHICH HE CAN ESTABLISH, AND THESE DEPEND ON HIS COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES WHICH, IN TURN, DEPEND ON THE QUANTITY AND DUALITY OF THE INFORMATION WHICH HE CONSIDERS. AGAINST A "PYRAMIDALITY" OF THE TERRITORY BASED ON THE TRADITIONAL RULES OF THE MARKET OF THE AREAS AND OF THE CITY-COUNTRY ANTAGONISM, WE WOULD PROPOSE A "PYRAMIDALITY" BASED ON THE FLOWING OF INFORMATION.

TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT IF THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE URBAN ARCHITECTS CITED UNTIL NOW STARTED WITH A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF ARCHITECTURE, ATTRIBUTING TO THE CRISIS OF THE CITY THE MEANING OF THE CRISIS OF THE POSSIBILITY TO ORGANIZE AND TO DEVELOP A GREATER NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS, THIS WAS NOT THE ONLY ATTEMPT AT ANSWERING THE FAILURE OF THE RATIONALIST CITY. OTHERS, IN MAKING THE ASPECT OF RATIONALISM COINCIDE WITH ITS FORMAL APPEARANCE, WITH ITS PRESUMPTUOUS MODULAR FACADES, WITH ITS INORGANIC SPACES, HAVE MUSTERED FORCES AGAINST THE MORPHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE MODERN MOVEMENT WHICH HAVE APPEARED INCAPABLE OF EXPRESSING IN THEIR "NORMS" THE COMPLEXITY OF ARCHITECTURAL PHENOMENA. THE ATTEMPT TO RECONQUER THE HISTORICAL DIALECTIC WITHIN THE ACTUALITY DIMENSION HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY MATRIX OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF GABETTI, ISOLA, GREGOTTI, CANELLA, PORTOGHESI, DEZZI BARDESCHI AND CERETTI & DE ROSSI, EVEN THOUGH WE CAN FIND DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS AUTHORS ACCORDING TO THE SENSE WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO HISTORY AND TO THE TYPE OF ADHERENCE WHICH IS CONCEDED TO IT. THIS EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG ITALIAN ARCHITECTS MUST CERTAINLY BE READ IN THE LIGHT OF THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MASTERS' WORKS OF THE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS FROM RISOZZI TO QUARONI TO SAMONÀ, TO THE LATE WORKS OF LE CORBUSIER, TO ALL THE WORKS OF THE KAHNIAN SCHOOL. BUT RENOUNCING THIS CLARIFICATION, WE HOPE TO UNDERSTAND HOW EVEN THE HISTORICISM OF THE 1960'S HAS BEEN STILL ANOTHER TYPE OF RESPONSE (MORE OR LESS CONSCIOUS) TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ILLUSIONS WHICH THE FAILURE OF RATIONALISM REPRESENTED, REPROPOSING HISTORY AS A CONTAINER OF "INGREDIENTS TO MANIPULATE" ON ALL LEVELS. THE GAME WAS RE-OPENED TO PROPOSALS AND IN DENOUNCING THE UNEASINESS OF THE CITY SO STUPIDLY BLOCKED BY BUILDING REGULATIONS, BY THE BANALITY OF "OPTIMUM" URBANISTIC NORMS, IT DRAMATICALLY INDICATED THE NEED FOR SEARCHING OUT NEW RELEASE OUTLETS IN THE ARCHITECTURAL ARGUMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VALUE OF THE OPERATION COULD INCREASE INsofar AS HISTORY DID NOT BECOME A "SOURCE OF INSPIRATION" TO REPROPOSE COMPLEX OBJECTS FRESHLY ENDOWED WITH ARTISTIC AURA, BUT USED INSTEAD AS A STOREHOUSE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTISE.

IN THIS SENSE, THOUGH THE RECOVERY OF HISTORY, ESPECIALLY ITALIAN HISTORY, HAS TAKEN PLACE STARTING WITH A CRITICISM OF THE FORMAL NORMS, FOR A GENERIC FREEDOM OF ARRANGEMENT, IT HAS, IN THE BEST OF CASES, INDIRECTLY REPRESENTED ANOTHER WAY OF SEPARATING THE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTISE FROM THE INCLUSIVE GAME OF THE MODE OF PRODUCTION OF THE CITY, PROPOSING A REFLECTION ON THE ROLE OF THE FORM ELABORATORS AND RECOVERING THE SENSE OF THE HISTORICAL PROCESS AS A CONTINUOUS DIALECTIC WITHIN WHICH IT FINDS HIS PLACE.

IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE FUNCTIONAL CRISIS AND TO RECOVER HISTORY, WE RE-OPEN, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, THE DEBATE ON THE FUNCTION OF ARCHITECTS WITH REGARD TO TERRITORIAL MODIFICATIONS CALLING INTO DISCUSSION ALL THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH WERE BASED THE AVANTGARDE MOVEMENTS FROM THE 1930'S ON. WE REALIZE THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO "DETERMINE, BY MEANS OF SPATIAL CONSTRUCTION, A PRECISE EXISTENTIAL METHODOLOGY OR TO RELY UPON AN IDEAL PRINCIPLE OF RATIONALITY WHICH REQUIRES BOTH THEORY AND PRACTISE, ARTISTIC PROCESS AND CRITICAL PROCESS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ARCHITECT TENDS TO GET RID OF HIS DEMIURGICAL FUNCTION, OF HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PRESUMPTION AND, PUT UNDER ACCUSATION BY THE SAME PRODUCTS WHICH HE CREATES OR IMPLICITLY ACCENTS, HE TRIES TO FIND AN OPERATION AMBIT WHICH FREES HIM FROM THE ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE MODERN MOVEMENT HAD ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AND WHICH WILL GIVE BACK TO HIM A STRATEGIC ROLE INSIDE THE COMPLEX PROCESS OF THE FORMATION OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS. HE DOES NOT FEEL CAPABLE ANY MORE OF "PROPOSING THE RANSOM FORM HUMAN CONDITIONS AND DEVIATE PRODUCTION RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH QUALIFICATIONS OF THOSE SAME PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES" BUT, ON THE ONE HAND, HE WANTS TO REDUCE TECHNICS TO THEIR REAL ROLE OF SERVICE, OF AN INSTRUMENT WAITING TO BE USED OF AN INERT OBJECT TO WHICH "MEANING" CAN BE GIVEN ONLY BY THE CONSCIOUS ACTION OF THE "MASSES" AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WANTS TO REGAIN POSSESSION OF HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE OF THE CONTINGENT CONDITIONING FACTORS IN ORDER TO REQUIRE MORE VALID INSTRUMENTS FOR ANALYSIS AND INTERVENTION. BUT IN THE ATTEMPT TO OPERATE IN THESE NEW DIRECTIONS, THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY FOR ARCHITECTURE TO ENTER INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH "TOTALITY", IS IMPLICITLY CONSTRUCTING AN EXTERNAL PRODUCT, EVEN WITHIN ITS HISTORICAL RELATIVISM. ARCHITECTURE, ON THE CONTRARY, IF IT HOPES TO SURVIVE, MUST REDEFINE ITS ROLE AS A COMPONENT OF AN INCLUSIVE STRATEGY OF THE TOTAL PROCESS OF HUMAN INTERACTIONS. EACH "WORK" TENDS TO BECOME "OPERATION" AND MUST BE JUDGED FOR ITS CAPABILITY OF ENTERING INTO RELATION WITH RECOVERABLE CONDITIONS IN ITS CONTEXT, AND THE TIME SPAN OF ITS "EXISTENCE" IS AS LONG AS THE PERMANENCE OF THESE CONDITIONS. WHILE ARCHITECTURE IS THUS COMPELLED TO CONTINUALLY RE-EXAMINE ITSELF AND EXPLAIN JUST WHAT ITS RELATIONSHIP IS WITH THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN WHICH IT WORKS AND AT WHAT POINT OF THE COMPLEX TRANSFORMATION PROCESS IT INTENDS TO LEND ITS ACTION, THE ARCHITECT, BEING OBLIGED TO PERFORM A CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF "SELF-CLARIFICATION", TENDS TO ASSIMILATE THE FUNCTION OF THE CRITIC.

ALDO LORIS ROSSI



...THE CITY CANNOT BE PLANNED OTHERWISE THAN AS A STRUCTURAL MATRIX POSSIBLY AUTONOMOUS. IT IS NAMELY A SYSTEM OF INVARIANTS, YET ABLE TO REABSORB THE "METABOLIC" TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE SOCIAL TISSUE, BY MODIFYING ITSELF BY A SERIES OF RETROACTIVE PROCESSES. THERE ARE THREE THEORETIC MOMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRUCTURE-CITY: 1) THE FIRST PERIOD CONSISTS OF AN INITIAL NUCLEUS INCLUDING POINT-SHAPED ELEMENTS OF WHICH ONLY THE BASAL VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED ($M_A M_B M_C$). IN ORDER TO ALLOW A FREE ASSOCIATION OF HOUSES, OFFICES, PUBLIC FITTINGS AND SERVICES, ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT PERIODS OF A VERTICAL DEVELOPMENT ($M_{A1,2,3...} M_{B1,2,3...} M_{C1,2,3...}$); 2) THE SECOND PERIOD IS PRODUCED BY THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE HORIZONTAL CONNECTIONS ON DIFFERENT LEVELS. THEREFORE IT CONSISTS OF LINEAR STRUCTURES (M_D , MM MATRICES) FROM WHICH FURTHER NUCLEI OF EXPANSION (M_E , P POLE, ETC.) DEVELOP ACCORDING TO AUTONOMOUS LAWS OF GROWTH (STUDIED AS GRAPHIC INTERFERENCES OR ANISOTROPIC DEFORMATIONS, IN COMPARISON WITH THE GENERAL AND MODULAR DIVISION OF SPACE); 3) IN THE THIRD PERIOD THE MM MATRIC (WITH SERVICES FIT TO 500,000 PEOPLE) ALSO REABSORBS THE RESIDENTIAL FUNCTION FROM THE TERRITORY AND EVENTUALLY TAKES THE ASPECT OF A REAL STRUCTURE-CITY (250,000 PEOPLE ONLY IN THE SLABELLEMENT). MOREOVER, THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE SECONDARY INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEMS, CONSISTING RESPECTIVELY OF SELF-ASSEMBLY PROCESSES AND CANALIZATION OF TRADE AND PLANTS. THE VITAL OPERATION OF THE CITY, WHEN THE FEATURES OF ITS CONNECTIVE TISSUE HAVE BEEN DETERMINED THROUGH THE PRIMARY INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEM, HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY STUDIED AS A BIOLOGICAL CYCLE, IN THREE CHIEF MOMENTS: A) THE CYCLE OF SELF-BUILDING-SELF-DESTRUCTION (THE CITY GROWS AND DECREASES IN THE TIME THROUGH THE USE OF FITTINGS SET IN SPECIAL CABLES INSIDE THE INHABITABLE MATERIAL); B) THE CYCLE OF SUPPLY-CONSUMPTION; C) THE CYCLE OF DISCHARGE-REGENERATION (THE MATERIAL AND ENERGETIC CONNECTIONS ARE CANALIZED IN SPECIAL BOX-SHAPED STRUCTURES WHICH ARE CLASPED TO THE INHABITABLE MATERIAL). A BOUNDLESS SERIES OF DERIVED INFRASTRUCTURAL PROGRAMS CONSISTS OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF INSERTING SPECIAL SYSTEMS (COINCIDING WITH SPECIAL FUNCTIONS HIGHLY SYMBOLICAL), CLASPED TO THE INHABITABLE MATERIAL OR DUG IN IT, WHICH DEVELOP WITH AUTONOMOUS LAWS OF TIME SPACE GROWTH....

PAOLO PORTOGHESI

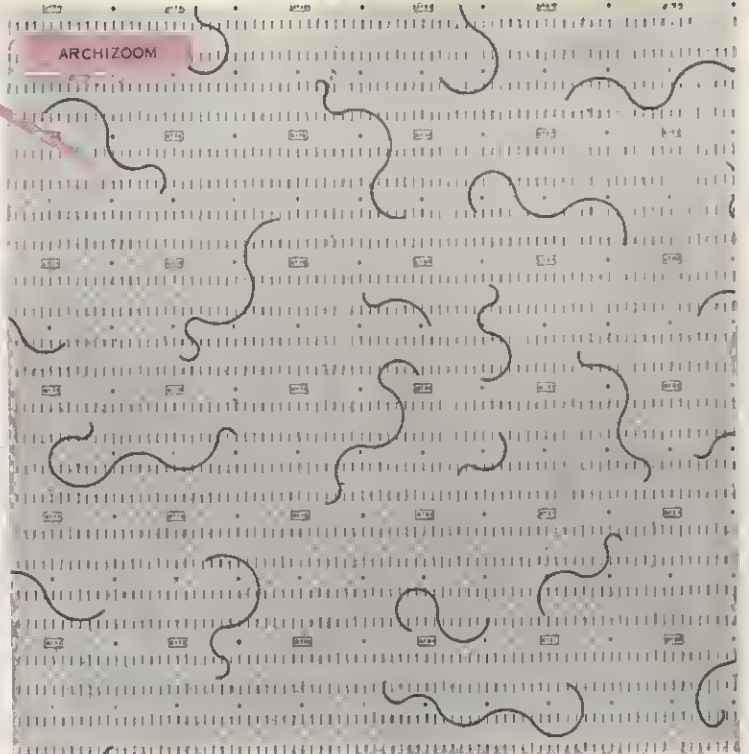


...1.1. DICAIA IS A HYPOTHESIS OF THE HISTORICAL FORM OF THE CITY AFTER THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.
 1.2. THE FRAME OF DICAIA IS A HUGE PRODUCTIVE NUCLEUS ORGANIZED AS AN AUTOMATIZED WORKSHOP.
 1.3. DICAIA IS A COHABITATION MACHINE.
 1.4. DICAIA CONTINUALLY CREATES THE STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO THE SETTLING DOWN OF A COMMUNITY. IT IS THEREFORE THE BODY WHICH BUILDS THE CITY, BUT IN THE SAME TIME THE CITY ITSELF.
 2.1. DICAIA IS A PRODUCT OF THE HUMAN MIND; YET IT IS STRUCTURED AS A LIVING ORGANISM ENDOWED WITH A GREAT AUTONOMY AND ABLE TO REPRODUCE.
 2.2. THE REPRODUCTION OF DICAIA TAKES PLACE AT THE END OF A CYCLE WHICH GIVES 200,000 PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING LODGED.
 2.3. THE REPRODUCTION OF DICAIA TAKES PLACE THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF MAN, WHO HAS IN ITS VITAL CYCLE THE SAME FUNCTION AS SOME INSECTS HAVE TO FLOWERS WHEN THEY CARRY ABOUT THE POLLEN.
 2.4. THE REPRODUCTION OF DICAIA TAKES PLACE THROUGH THE VERIFICATION OF ITS PROGRAM BY MAKING A COMPARISON BETWEEN ITS STRUCTURES AND THE JUDGEMENTS OF ITS INHABITANTS.
 3.1. THE IDEA OF DICAIA CAME FROM THE CONVICTION THAT ONLY THE COMPLEX MACHINE WILL BE ABLE TO RESCUE MAN FROM MAN, ELIMINATING ANY FORM OF EXPLOITATION AND ENSLAVEMENT, AS WELL AS THE IMPLEMENT HAS RESCUED MAN FROM THE SLAVERY OF NATURE.
 3.2. THE OBJECTIVE OF DICAIA IS TO OVERCOME ALIENATION AND THE DIVISION OF LABOUR.
 4.1. THE SUPPLYING APPARATUS OF DICAIA THROUGH WHICH IT TAKES ON THE RAW MATERIALS NECESSARY TO ITS GROWTH CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF DUCTS FED BY "AUTOMATIZED EXTRACTION PLANTS" AND "SUPPLYING MACHINES" ENDOWED WITH MOBILITY AND AUTONOMY.
 5.1. AS SOON AS DICAIA THROUGH ITS PRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES FULLY AUTOMATIZED HAS REALIZED ITS INITIAL NUCLEUS, IT WILL TAKE THE ASPECT OF A CITY THROUGH THE VOLUMETRIC TRANSFORMATION OF AN AREA THAT WE SHALL CALL THE DESERT OF POSSIBLE.



THE METROPOLIS, ONCE THE TRADITIONAL "BIRTHPLACE OF PROGRESS", IS TODAY THE MOST BACKWARD AND CONFUSED SECTOR OF CAPITAL: AND THIS IS TRUE TO SUCH AN EXTENT, THAT ONE IS LED TO WONDER IF THE MODERN CITY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PROBLEM WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED, OR IF, IN REALITY, IT IS NOT A HISTORICAL PHENOMENON WHICH HAS BEEN OBJECTIVELY SUPERSEDED. THAT IS, WE MUST DETERMINE WHETHER CAPITAL STILL CONFRONTS THE TASK OF MANAGING ITS OWN ORGANIZATION AND IMAGE ON AN URBAN LEVEL, AS IT DID A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, OR WHETHER THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN AND ARE TAKING PLACE NOT ALTERED ITS ACTUAL SPHERE OF ACTION, THUS TRANSFORMING THE CONCEPT OF THE CITY. THE PROBLEM THEN, IS NO LONGER THAT OF CREATING A METROPOLIS WHICH IS MORE HUMANE AND BETTER ORGANIZED, BUT RATHER THAT OF UNDERSTANDING THE OBJECTIVE LAWS WHICH CONTROL THE SHAPING OF THE URBAN-ARCHITECTURAL PHENOMENON, DEMISTIFYING THE COMPLEX IDEOLOGY WHICH SURROUNDS THE DISCUSSION AND CONDITIONS THE FORM IT TAKES. NOW THE METROPOLIS CEASES TO BE A "PLACE", TO BECOME A "CONDITION": IN FACT, IT IS JUST THIS CONDITION WHICH IS MADE TO CIRCULATE UNIFORMLY, THROUGH CONSUMER PRODUCTS, IN THE SOCIAL PHENOMENON. THE FUTURE DIMENSION OF THE METROPOLIS COINCIDES WITH THAT OF THE MARKET ITSELF. NO REALITY EXISTS ANY LONGER OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM ITSELF. THE CITY NO LONGER "REPRESENTS" THE SYSTEM, BUT BECOMES THE SYSTEM ITSELF, PROGRAMMED AND ISOTROPIC, AND WITHIN IT THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS ARE CONTAINED HOMOGENOUSLY, WITHOUT CONTRADICTIONS. THE FACTORY AND THE SUPERMARKET BECOME THE SPECIMEN MODELS OF THE FUTURE CITY: OPTIMAL URBAN STRUCTURES, POTENTIALLY LIMITLESS, WHERE HUMAN FUNCTIONS ARE ARRANGED SPONTANEOUSLY IN A FREE FIELD, MADE UNIFORM BY A SYSTEM OF MICRO-ACCLIMATISATION AND OPTIMAL CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION. NOWADAYS THE ONLY POSSIBLE UTOPIA IS QUANTITATIVE. SOCIAL CONFLICT IS NO LONGER GOING THROUGH THE PHASE OF THE CONFRONTATION OF ALTERNATIVE MODELS, BUT IS IN THAT OF DIALECTICAL NEGOTIATION BETWEEN A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM AND THE GROWING COST OF THE LABOUR FORCE. THE CLASH NO LONGER TAKES PLACE IN THE FIELD OF IDEOLOGY BUT IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS. QUANTITATIVE LANGUAGE REPLACES QUALITATIVE, THUS BECOMING THE ONLY SCIENTIFIC MEANS OF APPROACH TO THE UNDIFFERENTIATED STRATIFICATION OF PRODUCTION AND HENCE OF REALITY.

ARCHIZOOM



PREMONITIONS OF THE MYSTICAL REBIRTH OF URBANISM. THESE ARE VISIONS OF TWELVE IDEAL CITIES, THE SUPREME ATTAINMENT OF TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS OF HUMANITY'S BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS: THE DEFINITIVE HAVEN OF MAN IN THE POSSESSION OF TRUTH, FINALLY FREE FROM CONTRADICTIONS, DOUBTS, EQUIVOCATIONS, INDECISION; DEFINITELY, TOTALLY, IMMOBILELY FULL OF HIS OWN PERFECTION...

THIRD CITY "NEW YORK OF BRAINS"
IN THE MOST CHARRED, DEVASTATED AND MOLTEN AREA OF THAT GREY SPACE THAT ONCE WAS NEW YORK, AND MORE PRECISELY, WHERE CENTRAL PARK ONCE WAS, AT ABOUT 81ST ST., THERE STANDS THE CITY. WHEN THE OTHERS REALIZED THAT THE EXPLOSION HAD IRREVOCABLY CONTAMINATED ALL THE INHABITANTS OF NEW YORK AND THAT THEIR BODIES WERE MOULDERING AND ROTTING WITHOUT REMEDY, IT WAS DECIDED TO BUILD THE CITY. IT IS A CUBE WITH A LENGTH, WIDTH AND HEIGHT OF 180 FT., COVERED IN QUARTZ TILES MEASURING 10 X 10 IN., IN EACH OF WHICH THERE IS A LENS OF 9 IN. DIAMETER. THIS COVERING HAS THE PURPOSE OF CONDENSING LIGHT ONTO THE PHOTOSENSITIVE LAYER BEHIND, WHICH TRANSFORMS IT INTO THE ENERGY NECESSARY FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CITY. THE CUBE IS UNINTERRUPTEDLY AND EVENLY FULL OF 10 IN. CUBIC CONTAINERS-MADE OF A SPECIAL TRANSPARENT POLYMER WITH INDEFINITE STABILITY; THE INSIDE OF EVERY CUBE IS A SPHERICAL CAVITY FULL OF A PHYSIOLOGICAL LIQUID IN WHICH LIVES A BRAIN; IN THE THICKNESS OF THE WALLS OF THE CONTAINERS ARE THE CONDUITS THROUGH WHICH THE EXTERNAL PHYSIOLOGICAL LIQUID AND THAT WHICH SUBSTITUTES THE CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD, ARE CONTINUALLY RENEWED; SYSTEMS OF ELECTRODES INSERTED IN VARIOUS POINTS OF THE CEREBRAL MASSES ENABLE THE BRAINS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY.

AT THE CENTER OF THE CITY YAWNS A CAVITY WITH A LENGTH, WIDTH, HEIGHT OF 33 FT. 3 IN.; ITS FLOOR IS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE GROUND ON WHICH THE GREAT CUBE STANDS; A CORRIDOR 3 FT. 4 IN. WIDE, 6 FT. 8 IN. HIGH AND 58 FT. 4 IN. LONG CONNECTS THE CENTRAL CAVITY WITH THE OUTSIDE. THE CENTRAL CAVITY IS MOSTLY OCCUPIED BY THE REGENERATING AND FILTER APPARATUS FOR THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS; THE FILTER PROCESS IS PARTICULARLY ACCURATE, ELIMINATING ALL TOXINS, THUS PREVENTING THE PROCESS OF NECROSIS AND AGEING.

10,000,450 BRAINS LIVE IN THE CITY.
IN THE DIM RED LIGHT OF THE CORRIDOR AND THE CENTRAL CAVITY, THEY CAN BE SEEN PULSING SLOWLY, IMMERSSED IN THEIR INTERMINABLE MEDIATIONS, OR CONCENTRATED IN MUTE, INDEFINITE INTERCOURSE.

SUPERSTUDIO



GRUPPO STRUM



SOCIAL - LEISURE ENVIRONMENT. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, POP MUSIC, LIGHTING EQUIPMENT, STROBOSCOPIC LAMPS AND SLIDE PROJECTIONS HAVE HAD AN IMPORTANT PART IN FORMING THE AMBIENCE FOR MEETINGS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS OF ALL TYPES. THUS, "BOITE A SURPRISE" CAPABLE OF TEMPERING URBAN MAN HAVE COME TO ALL CITIES. THEY COMPENSATE BY THE UNBALANCING EFFECT OF THEIR PSYCHO-PHYSICAL STATEMENT, MUCH OF THE MAGIC HAS COME FROM NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE AIM IS TO STIMULATE THE IMAGINATION, CREATE FORMAL BREAK-DOWNS IN ORGANIZED SUPERSTRUCTURES AND, BY MEANS OF AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS, INCREASE REACTIVE AND EXPRESSIVE CAPACITIES. THE LIMITS OF THE PROPOSED FREEDOM ARE THE LIMITS OF A BOX. AT THE END OF THE SHOW THE BOX IS REOPENED AND EVERYONE GOES BACK TO HIS OWN REAL SITUATION. HE IS TIRED AND RELAXED AND WANTING ORDER BACK AGAIN. WITH THIS PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA EQUIPPED AS A "SOCIAL-LEISURE ENVIRONMENT", WE HAVE TRIED, BY GETTING AWAY FROM THE "EXTRAVAGANT INVENTION" RACE, TO MOVE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. THUS, THERE IS AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY AND AN ALIENATION IN A CONTROLLED ILLUSION OF EPHEMERAL FREEDOM.

IN ORDER TO GET AT THE PROBLEM MAINTAINS A CRITICAL ATTITUDE, WE PROPOSE A SPACE WHICH SYMBOLISES THE EXPLOSION OF A "COMPENSATION CHAMBER" OF A CITY, CONSIDERED AS A GENERAL RECIPIENT OF THE EXISTING SOCIAL REALITY. THE TOOLS FOR THIS EXPLOSION ARE AUDIO-VISUAL MEANS "FREED" FROM INSTITUTIONALISED CONDITIONING AND THE CONSUMER LOGIC. THEY ARE SYMBOLICALLY GIVEN BACK TO THE FREE USE OF FREE CITIZENS. OUR UTOPIA FORESEES THE BIRTH IN THE CITIES OF MANY S.L.E. CENTERS LIKE THE ONE PROPOSED AROUND THESE CENTERS A NETWORK OF FREE MULTI-DIRECTIONAL INFORMATION SHOULD GROW. OUR PROJECT IS AN AMBIENCE THAT IS FREE OF PRECONCEIVED IDEAS CLICHES, OR WELL-WORN PSYCHEDELIC TRACKS. IN THIS EMPTINESS OF PREFORMED IMAGES, ARE SET THE EQUIPMENT FOR COMMUNICATION AT ALL LEVELS, FROM THE SMALL GROUP TO THE ENTIRE URBAN AREA. SOME EQUIPPED CENTRES ARE PLACED IN WELL CHOSEN PARTS OF THE CITY, FROM THESE CENTERS IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE INSIDE OF THE S.L.E., AND FROM THE INSIDE OF THE S.L.E. IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE PEOPLE IN THE STREET, LEAFLETS, WALL NEWSPAPERS, POSTERS, AND SHOWS MAY BE THE SOLUTION, THE AGENCY OF INITIATING A CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE.

MARIO MERZ



THE BROKEN PANES ARE THE VIOLINISTS, THE SPEARS THE ORGAN, THE FAGGOTS HAVE A MARVELLOUS SOUND WHAT WILL YOU MORE, INDEED WE MUST BELIEVE THAT STREETS AND HOUSES ARE FILLED WITH PEOPLE.



THE SUBJECT IS THE CITY.

THE AIM IS: 1) AN HISTORICALLY SOUND CONCEPT OF THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE CITY AS AN INVOLVING ORGANISM. 2) A TESTING OF THE CONCEPTION BY A VERIFICATION PROCESS, TRANSFERRING IDEAS INTO THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF A MICRO-CITY. 3) TO PROCEED FROM BEGINNING TO END OF THE PROGRAM, ALREADY UNDER WAY, IN THE MANNER OF AN OPEN-ENDED PROCESS TO BE LIVED IN AND EXPERIENCED BY SOME THOUSANDS OF APPRENTICES AND STUDENTS.

PRIORITY: THE DEFINITION OF THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE SOCIAL ORGANISM THAT WILL INHABIT IT.

THE GUIDING LINES ARE PRAGMATIC:

1. THE CITY IS A BIO-MENTAL ORGANISM CONTAINED IN A MINERAL STRUCTURE.
2. THE CITY IS AN ORGANISM OF A THOUSAND MINDS.
3. THE CITY IS AN ORGANISM IN A CONSTANT PROCESS OF COMPLEXIFICATION.
4. NATURE SHOWS THAT FOR ALL ORGANISMS OR SOCIETY OR ORGANISMS WITH ANY INCREMENT OF COMPLEXITY, THERE CORRESPONDS A SPATIO-DURATIONAL CONTRACTION OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

COMPLEXITY IS A FUNCTION OF MINIATURIZATION.

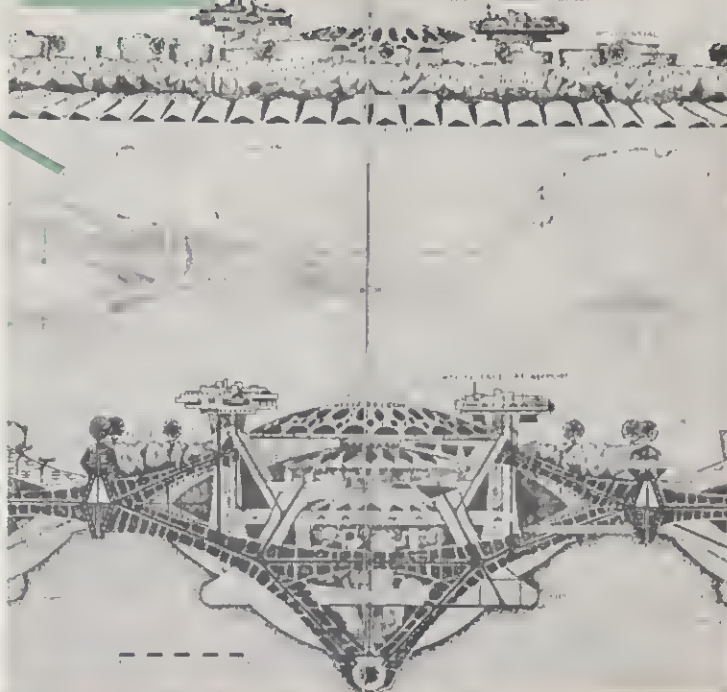
THIS IS A RULE THAT MAKES UP THE STUFF OF REALITY ITSELF AND CANNOT BE AMENDED BY POLITIC, ECONOMY, RELIGION, SCIENCE, OR PHILOSOPHY... IN FACT, ALL OF THESE ARE OF IT AS LONG AS THEY DEAL WITH MASS, ENERGY, AND LIFE, NOT WITH "NAUGHT". "NAUGHT" IS FORCIBLY A SUBURBAN MELANCHOLY.

5. THE ENORMOUS COMPLEXIFICATION WORKING ITSELF INTO THE SOCIAL ORGANISM MAKES MANDATORY A CORRESPONDINGLY ENORMOUS CONTRACTION OF ITS URBAN CONTAINER.

6. IT IS THEN EVIDENT AND FATAL THAT THIS SCATTERIZATION, TEARING APART OUR TOWNS AND CITIES, IS A DEGENERATIVE PROCESS, NOT A GROWTH PROCESS. IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE INSTEAD A MINIATURIZING CONTRACTION.

7. THE MINIATURIZATION RULE, A DIRECT INJUNCTION OF THE LOGISTICS OF MATTER-ENERGY, MUST BE RESPECTED UNIVERSALLY. IT MUST BE OBSERVED BY ANY SYSTEM OFFERING A PHYSICAL MODICUM THAT WILL AFFORD A SOUND AND SWIFT LOGISTIC FOR SOCIETY AND THUS SET THE PREMISES FOR THE PHYSICAL FREEDOM AND EXUBERANCE NEEDED.

PAOLO SOLERI



A NEW ARCHITECTURE FOR A NEW WAY OF LIVING.

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW SYSTEM OF ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING CANNOT HAVE A SINGLE STARTING-POINT: THE ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF TODAY'S MAN AND, IN PARTICULAR, OF THE MICROCOSM WHERE HE LIVES.

A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE SPACE WHICH SURROUNDS MAN AND OF THE STRUCTURES WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR A COHERENT LIFE IN OUR REALITY, LEADS US TO A NEW IDEA OF LIVING THAT INEVITABLY PRODUCES A DIFFERENT AND MORE MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

MAN HAS ALWAYS CREATED A SHELL FOR HIS OWN SHELTER, FURNISHING IT AFTERWARDS WITH INDISPENSABLE OBJECTS.

IN THIS PROCESS, THE CONTAINER HAS ALMOST ALWAYS CONDITIONED THE CONTENTS. NOW, IF THE ELEMENTS AND THE STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO MAN'S LIVING COULD BE PROGRAMMED, ONLY BOUND BY AN ALMOST COMPLETE MANOEUVRABILITY, FLEXIBILITY AND ARTICULATION, WE MIGHT SET UP A HABITABLE SYSTEM FIT FOR ANY SITUATION IN SPACE AND IN TIME AT OPTIMUM CONDITIONS.

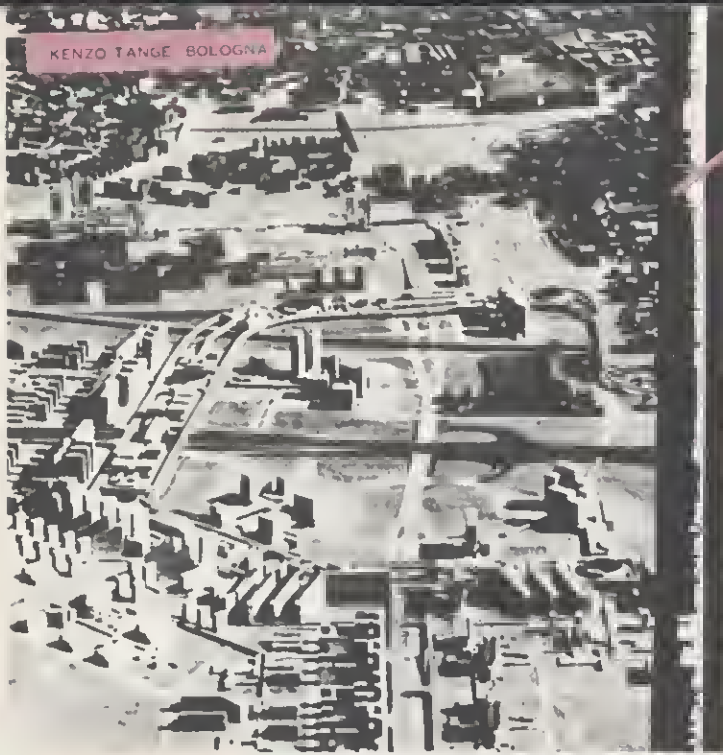
AS SOON AS THE CONTENTS WHICH MAY PERFECTLY SUIT THE OBJECTIVE HAVE BEEN CREATED, WE MIGHT SET THE BASIS FOR A MORE RATIONAL METHODOLOGY IN PLANNING THE CONTAINER.

WE INTENDED TO OPERATE IN THIS WAY AND PLAN AND, AFTER STUDY AND RESEARCH, WE HAVE PLANNED AND ACHIEVED A SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS US TO EXPERIMENT AND TO PURSUE THE BEST WAY OF LIVING FOR TODAY'S MAN.

JOE COLOMBO

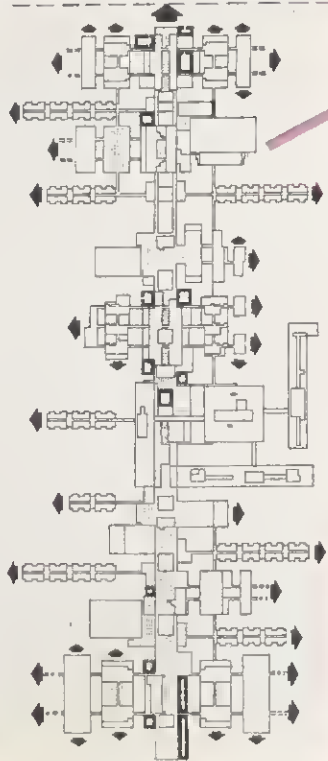
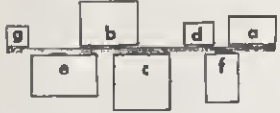


KENZO TANGE BOLOGNA



CITY STRUCTURE AND CITY AXIS. DESIGN CONCEPT THE LINEAR OR AXIAL PAT-
TERN IS ONE OF THE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF MOVEMENT SYSTEM AS AN INTEGRATED
STRUCTURE. THE LINEAR PATTERN OF FUNCTIONAL COMPLEX IS BENEFICIAL FOR
THE DESIGNING OF TRANSPORTATION MOVEMENT SYSTEM. IN TERMS OF FUNCTIONAL
MEANING, CITY AXIS WILL NOT BE ESTABLISHED ONLY BY THE SATISFACTORY FUNC-
TIONAL CONDITION BUT ALSO SHOULD INCLUDE THE OBJECTS WHICH CAN BE IDENTI-
FIED BY THE CITIZEN AND THE HISTORICAL ASSETS WHICH THE CITIZEN HAS BEEN FA-
MILIAR WITH. AS MAIN COMPONENTS OF CITY AXIS CITY AXIS SHOULD SYMBOLIZE
PHYSICALLY THE MEANING OF THIS COMPONENT SUCH AS HISTORY, NATURE AND PRE-
SENT URBAN ACTIVITY ITSELF. CONSEQUENTLY, CITY AXIS IS THE FACE OF THE CITY
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CITY AXIS SHOULD EXPRESS CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION AS
A MEDIEVAL CITY WAS SYMBOLIZED BY CITY GATE, CITY WALL AND MANY TOWERS
WE CALL THIS FRAMEWORK CITY STRUCTURE. IF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE CI-
TY CENTER REPRESENT THE URBAN ACTIVITIES, THE STRUCTURAL COMPLEX FRAMED
ON THE CITY STRUCTURE IS THE FACE OF THE CITY WHICH REPRESENTS THE PHYSI-
CAL CITY. AS YOU MOVE ABOUT IN THIS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, YOU CAN EX-
PERIENCE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF URBAN ACTIVITIES AND FEEL YOURSELF INVOLVED
IN THEM. IN THIS SENSE, THE TRANSPORTATION MOVEMENT SYSTEM SHOULD CONSTI-
TUTE A SEQUENTIAL ORDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VELOCITY AND VARIETY OF
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. IN THE CITY CENTER, THEREFORE, THE MOVEMENT SY-
STEM SHOULD BE COMPOSED TO BE EXPERIENCED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE MUTUAL
RELATION AMONG THE TRAFFIC FACILITIES AND THE SIMULTANEOUS INTEGRATION
OF THE SEVERAL LEVEL OF VELOCITY ARE REQUIRED. THE CITY STRUCTURE IS AR-
TICULATED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND CONSTITUTE THE SEQUENCE. GENERAL CONCEPT
THE DEVELOPMENT TO THE NORTHERN PART OF BOLOGNA IS CONSIDERED NOT ONLY
TO AIM AT THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DISTRICT CORRESPONDING TO THE NEW DE-
MAND, BUT THIS DEVELOPMENT TO BE THE VITAL FORCE TO REORGANIZE THE EXIS-
TING URBAN STRUCTURE FROM THE TRADITIONAL AND CENTRIPETAL STRUCTURE
TOWARDS THE OPEN AND LINEAR STRUCTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE LINEAR DE-
VELOPMENT TO THE NORTHERN PART AGREES WITH THE THOUGHT INCORPORATED
IN THE REGIONAL PLAN OF INTERCOMUNALE.....

GIANCARLO DE CARLO



VARIABILITA' DI DISLOCAZIONE
Variable phasing

PROPOSAL FOR A UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE:FLEXIBILITY, EXPANSION & PHASING
FLEXIBILITY HAS BEEN A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ARRIVING AT A SOLUTION
BOTH IN TERMS OF THE WHOLE UNIVERSITY THE INDIVIDUAL FACULTIES, AND IN
TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY AND IDEAS. ON THE LARGE SCALE, PARTICULAR ATTEN-
TION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO FLEXIBILITY OF PHASING, A COMPLETE, INTEGRATED SY-
STEM IS SHOWN, WITH A CERTAIN DISPOSITION OF ELEMENTS, BUT IT IS CERTAIN
THAT WITH A LONG TERM PROGRAMME, AND NO DETAILED ORDER OF DEVELOP-
MENT YET FIXED, THAT THIS WILL CHANGE. THE PLAN IS CAPABLE OF COMPLETE
REARRANGEMENT, WHILE STILL MAINTAINING THE ORDER OF THE SYSTEM. AT THE
LEVEL OF THE INDIVIDUAL FACULTY THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF EXPANSION. FIR-
STLY, PLANNED INFILL OF PARTS LEFT SPECIFICALLY OPEN FOR EXPANSION: THIS
ALLOWS FOR A 30% EXPANSION OF THE FACULTIES. SECONDLY THERE IS A LINEAR
EXPANSION AWAY FROM THE MAIN ROUTE FOR THE PRIVATE ROOMS. THIRDLY A
SYSTEM OF ADDING UNITS, AND DISPLACING ORGANIZATIONALLY THE FUNCTIONS.
THIS IS USED FOR THE LECTURE HALLS. TO FACILITATE EXPANSION AND FLEXIBI-
LITY THERE IS FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE PROGRAMME A STRUCTURAL GRID U-
SED AS A MODULAR TOOL IN WHICH ROOMS CAN BE PLACED FREELY.....
THE ARCHITECT AND THE PLAN.HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE OF MAKING A
PLAN FOR THIS CITY, I TAKE UP THIS POSITION: I PROPOSE THAT THE ADMINISTRA-
TION WHICH GIVES ME THE FACULTY OF MAKING THE PLAN, SHOULD START A NEW
PRAXIS BASED ON A COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION, CONFIDENT THAT THIS NEW PRAXIS
WILL NOT ONLY ALLOW ME TO FORMULATE NEW SOLUTIONS, DIFFERENT FROM
THE AUTHORITATIVE TRADITIONAL ONES, BUT WILL ESPECIALLY GIVE FREE COUR-
SE TO NEW FORCES, CAPABLE OF SURPASSING ANY PREVIOUS SOLUTION, TO DE-
MEAN MYSELF AND TO START A PROCESS WHICH CAN HARDLY BE FORSEEN. THEN,
IF THE TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS MY PROPOSAL AND STATES THAT IT INTENDS TO
KEEP IT GOING IN FULL, I SHALL HAVE NO DOUBTS, UP TO THAT MOMENT WHEN I
REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DECEPTIVE. I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS DERIVING
FROM ANY PAST EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL (FOR
ANYWAY IT COULD BE DIFFERENT NOW) NOR OBJECTIONS DERIVING FROM ANY PER-
SONAL CONTACT I HAVE HAD SO FAR..... THE PARTICIPATION THAT WE PROPOSE IS
NOT CONSULTATIVE, BUT OPERATIVE; WE ASK FOR TOTAL INVOLVEMENT WITH MY
PLAN, AT ALL LEVELS FROM POLITICAL CHOICE TO FORMAL PROPOSALS.....



A THOROUGH ANALYSIS SHOWS HOW NARROW THE SPACE IS WHEREIN THE "CULTURAL DEBATE" WORKS: (LIMITED) ON THE ONE HAND BY THE DANGER OF FAILING TO CONTACT THE REAL SITUATION, CAUSING NO CONSIDERABLE REACTION OF THE DELIBERATIVE STRUCTURE; (LIMITED) ON THE OTHER HAND BY THE TEMPTATION TO ACCEPT A SYSTEM OF BUREAUCRATIC MEDIATIONS WHEREIN ONLY THE ACTIONS PROVIDED BY THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT ARE POSSIBLE. BOTH OF THESE ATTITUDES FALL WITHIN THE RANGE OF ACTION OF THE "SCIENTIFIC CONGREGATIONS" AND CORRESPOND, ON ONE SIDE, WITH THE ONWARD STIMULUS FOR RESEARCH AND, ON THE OTHER, WITH THE PARTICIPATION (EVEN INDIRECT OR CRITICAL) IN THE MANAGEMENT OF POWER.

THE CONTRADICTION THE SYSTEM IS NO LONGER AN INTELLECTUAL OR TECHNICAL BEHAVIOR, BUT BECOMES A POLITICAL BEHAVIOR, WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED A MOMENT OF WARFARE; NAMELY WHEN ON THE ONE HAND IT IS THE RESULT OF CONSCIOUSNESS OF THOSE WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THEY BELONG TO THE PROLETARIAN CLASS AND, THEREFORE, ARE OPPOSED TO POWER BLOCKS, AND ON THE OTHER HAND IT BECOMES PART OF THE PERMANENT MASS MOBILIZATION ORGANIZED AGAINST THE POWER OF THE LOWER CLASS WHICH "REACTS AGAINST ANY ABUSE, ARBITRARY ACT, REPRESSION, VIOLENCE OR EXPLOITATION WHATSOEVER, AND REACTS ON A REVOLUTIONARY GROUND".

FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INTELLECTUAL AND THE PROLETARIAN CONDITION IMPLIES THAT MEANS AND AIMS OF THE REALITY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE ESSENTIALLY TO BE CHANGED.

THE PROLETARIAN CONDITION OF REIFICATION AND ALIENATION, CAUSED BY PRODUCTION RELATIONS, ("THE PROLETARIAN HAS NOT ONLY BECOME AN OBJECT, BUT WHAT IS MORE, THE OBJECT OF ANOTHER MAN: HE IS IN THE SAME TIME REIFIED AND ALIENATED") IS, IN THE FIELD OF HIS COGNITIVE ACTIVITY, FALSE OBJECTIVITY AND FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS.

ONE OF THE BASAL FEATURES OF THE CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY IS IN FACT "TO CONCEAL SOCIAL RELATIONS AND THE PSYCHIC REALITY BY GIVING THEM THE ASPECT OF NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF THINGS AND NATURAL LAWS". THEREFORE "THE COGNITIVE IDEAL OF NATURAL SCIENCES WHICH ONLY SERVES THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE, WHEN RELATING TO THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, APPEARS AS A MEANS OF THE BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGIC STRUGGLE". THE VERY REALITY OF THE STRUGGLE AND ITS THEORETIC CLASH SHOW HOW IT IS A VITAL QUESTION FOR THE BOURGEOISIE "TO LEARN ITS OWN PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM" AND CONSEQUENTLY "TO WEIGH THE CONTRADICTIONS WHICH INEVITABLY COME UP AS MERE EXPRESSIONS OF SURFACE, INSTEAD OF CONCERNING THE ESSENCE OF THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM". IN OTHER WORDS "THE METHOD OF NATURAL SCIENCES" IS ACTUALLY THE METHODOLOGICAL IDEAL OF ANY REFORMISM, WHICH INTENDS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IF SOME DISCREPANCIES EXIST IN THE SINGLE THEORIES, THAT IS ONLY A MARK OF THE IMPERFECT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE.

THEN THE PRINCIPAL OF KNOWLEDGE FOR A HIGH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS TO SUPPRESS THE FALSE OBJECTIVITY AND TO REMOVE THE ALIENATING CAUSES: THE AIM OF THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY TENDS TO COINCIDE WITH THE AIM OR THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

THIS KIND OF CONNECTION WITH THE SOCIAL REALITY (WHICH IS THE PROLETARIAN POINT OF VIEW) MAKES A CLEAR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OTHER POINT OF VIEW. FOR INSTANCE AGAINST THE POINT OF VIEW OF THOSE WHO CENSURE THE CONFUSED AND CONTRADICTORY COMPLEXITY OF THE SOCIAL REALITY TO GIVE IT ORDERLY AND ENCOURAGING SOLUTIONS. TO THEM THE PROBLEM OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF REALITY IS MOSTLY A PROBLEM OF KNOWLEDGE AND EFFICIENCY, TO MAKE CHOICES AND TO CONTROL THE INTERVENTIONS. OWING TO LIMIT AND INTEREST IN THIS WORK, IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO OPEN A DEBATE BETWEEN "ANALYTICAL REASON AND DIALECTICAL REASON AND DIALECTICAL REASON", FOR IT WOULD INVOLVE "THE METHODOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHIC FOUNDATIONS OF THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCE".

WE DO NOT OBVIOUSLY REJECT THE USEFULNESS OF SOME SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES AND METHODS TO "STUDY INTERNODAL SEGMENTS OF THE DIALECTICAL CONTRADICTIONS"; WE REFUSE RATHER THAN ATTRIBUTE THEM THE VALUE OF GENERAL CATEGORIES OF KNOWLEDGE, ABLE TO "GIVE ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PHASES", AND CONTEST ANY IDEOLOGIC USE OF THEM. SO IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO STOP AT THE INTERACTION, IF BY INTERACTION WE MEAN "THE MUTUAL INFLUENCE OF OBJECTS OTHERWISE IMMODIFIABLE". BEYOND THIS DISTINCTION OF OBJECTS AND OF THE ANALYSIS OF THEIR INTERACTIONS, WE MUST FIND OUT FOR EACH OF THEM THE LINK WITH THE WHOLE OF THE SOCIAL PROCESS; IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND ITS DETERMINATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHOLE SOCIAL FIELD. AS SOON AS THE REALITY OF A PHENOMENON AND ITS REAL FUNCTION HAVE BEEN KNOWN, IT IS TO BE CLEAR THAT THE CONTRADICTION "...IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHOLE, ARE NOT OVERCOME UNTIL THEY CEASE TO BE CONTRADICTIONS..... THE THEORY AS KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHOLE, CAN SHOW A

WAY FOR THE OVERCOMING OF THESE CONTRADICTIONS, FOR THEIR SUPPRESSION, ONLY IN THAT IT DENOTES THOSE REAL TENDENCIES IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH, IN THE COURSE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, ARE REALLY BOUND TO SUPPRESS THESE CONTRADICTIONS IN THE SOCIAL REALITY".

FROM THIS, IT IS PRESUMABLE THAT WE MUST OPPOSE THOSE PROGRAMMATIC TRENDS WHICH PROPOSE NEW METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND INTERVENTION OVER THE CITY, WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO HIDE THE REAL CONDITION OF TECHNICIANS AND THE REAL NATURE OF THE INTERVENTION THAT THE CAPITAL ORGANIZES. THE ANALYSIS OF AN OBJECT OR A SITUATION MUST EXPLAIN ITS FUNCTION IN THE WHOLE: NOT A VAGUE WHOLE, BUT DETERMINED BY PRODUCTION RELATIONS: THEN IT BECOMES "CONSCIOUSNESS" OF PROLETARIAN OF THE SOCIAL REALITY IN THEIR CONDITION OF CLASS.

THIS IS USEFUL TO THE STRUGGLE, FOR THE "RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHOLE OF THE SOCIETY CONSIDERED AS A PROCESS" PERMITS TO GIVE DIRECTIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PROLETARIANS IN EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF THE STRUGGLE. SO THAT A REVOLUTIONARY CONSCIOUSNESS CAN COME UP. AND IT MAKES USE OF THE STRUGGLE: THE MERE UNVEILLING RUNS THE RISK OF BEING COVERED AGAIN BY A THEORY WHICH EXPLAINS IT, FOR THE POWER OF REIFICATION OF THE SYSTEM IS BIG AND ENTANGLING.

SO WE REAFFIRM THAT NO THEORY OF THE REAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CAPITALISTIC PRODUCTIVE FORCES, NOW SATISFACTORY AND REFINED IT MAY BE, CAN DO WITHOUT A POLITICAL PRAXIS OF CLASS: NOT ONLY, BUT THIS REFERENCE TO A PRAXIS CANNOT BE PUT OFF ACCORDING TO A TACTICAL PLAN: BECAUSE, IF IT IS CORRECT, IT ALSO INVOLVES THE VERY ROLE OF THE THEORIST AND OF THE RESEARCHER, CREATING A CONTINUAL INTERACTION BETWEEN THE STIMULUS FOR A CHANGE IN THE INDIVIDUAL CONDITIONS IN THE FIELD OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF WORK AND THE WHOLE OF THE CONDITIONS IN PRODUCTION AND ITS CONTRADICTIONS. THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS (DIRECTED ACTIONS, INTERVENTIONS) CONSEQUENT UPON THE ANALYSIS, CANNOT BUT SHOWING THEIR ROLE IN THE WHOLE OF THE ACTIONS AIMING AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTRADICTIONS IN PRODUCTION RELATIONS: THEREFORE THEY TEND TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN FOR POLITICAL INTERVENTION WHICH CAN BE CONCRETELY CARRIED OUT BY PROLETARIANS IN A FIXED TIME.

RECAPITULATING, THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY, IN ANALYSING THE SYSTEM OF THE CAPITALISTIC PRODUCTION AND UNVEILLING THE REAL MANAGING MACHINE OF POWER AND ECONOMIC CONTROL IN A CERTAIN SITUATION, EXPLAINS AND CENSURES THE SPECIFIC PROLETARIAN CONDITION, REFERRING IT TO THE WHOLE EXPLOITED CLASS; IN THIS WAY IT PARTICIPATES IN THE PLANNING OF POLITICAL OBJECTIVES ACTUALLY ACHIEVABLE BY THE PROLETARIAN BATTLES.

ALSO THE ACTIVITIES AIMING AT THE UNVEILLING OF THE ACHIEVED PHYSICAL CONDITIONS MUST REFER TO THIS GENERAL PLAN AND, EVEN MORE PRECISELY, THE ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ALTERNATIVE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS (IN PARTICULAR THOSE RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY). FOR A CONTINUITY IN THIS SENSE, IT IS NECESSARY TO GET RID OF OPPORTUNISM WHICH TENDS TO DEDUCE FROM THE MOST SOPHISTICATED FORMULATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONGREGATIONS NEW SUBJECTS FOR RESEARCH, TO RECOVER THE IDEOLOGIC CONTROL OF STUDENTS AND PEOPLE ON A NEW BASIS AND TO START A NEW STANDARD OF SELECTION. THEN IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE LIMITS AND THEIR AVAILABILITY TO BE USED IMMEDIATELY, AVOIDING TO LAPSE INTO A GRATUITOUS "PREFIGURATION". MOREOVER, THIS INTERMEDIATE ACTIONS MUST BE SUCH AS TO REMAIN TIGHTLY CONNECTED WITH THE REAL EXIGENCES OF TECHNICIANS, ACCORDING TO THEIR SPECIFIC ROLE INSIDE THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM. ONLY IN THIS CASE THE PROPOSALS WILL BE OBJECTIVELY LINKED UP WITH THE STRUGGLES IN THE OTHER SECTORS, CREATING A STATUTORY RELATIONSHIP.

THIS METHOD OF RESEARCH MUST BE APPLIED TO THE CITY IN CONNECTION WITH

casabella

the magazine for people with a responsibility in the organizing and shape of the human environment



359-360 THE CITY AS AN ARTIFACT

The magazine discusses the urgent themes related to the organization and shape of the environment in which man lives; it caters to all those who occupy positions of responsibility in the development of these phenomena, whose work strives for a critical conscience to oppose to false technocratic optimism, for an awareness of the positive contents of the past, for respect of the demands which advanced communal living brings to bear upon territorial development. The programme for the future is concerned with many fundamental issues: the politics and control of land, construction, layout - quality and quantity in Italian and international architecture - the quest for poetry in the visual arts - industrial design for the community - future materials and advanced techniques - materials and structure - the experimental value of interiors - alternatives in method and legislation in teaching, planning, the profession - the necessity of the anti-academy - consumer participation in decision and design - interaction between fields and between specializations - developing social models - the future of engineering and research - the industrial problem of production - the builder today.

Using up-to-date communication techniques — and its own study centre — the editorial team compiles every month a broad survey of polemics, news and documents (current problems in national and international criticism), offering the methodological and visual image of a «human» trend for our future habitat. Casabella — one of the leading reviews in its sector in the world — presents all the material: agencies, organisms, documents, projects and ideas necessary for the elaboration of the proposed themes.

This «fotoromano» by the STRUM team, which Casabella presents at the exhibition «Italy: the new domestic landscape» at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, will also be published in one of the next issues of the review.

THE GROWING IMPORTANCE THAT THE URBAN PROBLEM HAS BEEN TAKING IN THE LAST YEARS IN THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN CAPITAL AND WORKING CLASS. ESPECIALLY IN THESE CENTERS WHEREIN MORE EXTENSIVE AND ADVANCED PROCESSES HAVE DEVELOPED, WITH PROGRESSIVE LINKINGS OF THE PRODUCTIVE ORGANIZATIONS ON A SOCIAL LEVEL AND OF THE BATTLES OUTSIDE THE FACTORIES, WITH A CONVERGENCE OF NEW SOCIAL GROUPS ON STRATEGIC PLANS ELABORATED BY THE WORKING CLASS, THE PROBLEM OF A "THEORETIC ARRANGEMENT OF THE URBAN SYSTEM INSIDE PRODUCTIVE PROCESS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN A CLASS STRATEGY" BECOMES ESSENTIAL. CONTRADICTIONS OF INTELLECTUAL WORK AND CON-TRADICTIONS OF THE CITY, THOUGH THEY ARE PART OF THE SAME PROBLEM, ARE DIVIDED IN TWO PERIODS OF SURVEY, WHICH, ONLY FOR AN EXIGENCE OF CLASSIFI-CATION, ARE TO BE KEPT SEPARATED. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS EXPRESSIONS (SPECIFICITY) OF INTERVENTION (INSTITUTIONAL WORK, POLITICAL MILITANCY, THEORETIC CRITICISM, ETC.).

THE FIRST PERIOD STRESSES THE CRITICISM AND ACCUSATION TO IDEOLOGIES AND THE CONSEQUENT BEHAVIORS OF THE TECHNICIAN AND THE RESEARCHER, AND ATTEMPTS TO CREATE ALTERNATIVE POLITICO-SCIENTIFIC CLASS BEHAVIORS. IT IS NOURISHED BY SPECIFIC GENERAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE CRISIS OF UNIVERSITY, THE PROBLEM OF QUALIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL POSSIBILITIES, THE CRISIS OF ROLES AND DISCIPLINE, THE PROBLEM OF INSERTION OF INTELLECTUAL WORK INSIDE THE PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM AND CAPITALISTIC ORGANIZATION AND THE PROBLEM OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTELLECTUAL TECHNICIANS AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF UNIVERSITY WORK, OF THE USE OF RESEARCH AND INTELLECTUAL WORK IN GENERAL. WE CAN TAKE NOTE OF SOME SPECIFIC RESEARCH FIELDS:

- THE ROLE OF "CULTURE" AND CULTURAL OPERATORS IN THE DYNAMICS OF "ANALYSED" DEVELOPMENT IN SPECIFIC MOMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS OF THE MAKING OF THE MODERN CITY;
- THE FORMING OF DISCIPLINARY IDEOLOGIES IN THE RANGE OF THE ITALIAN POST-WAR POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL REALITY;
- "THE ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCT" IN COMPARISON WITH THE TERRITORIAL POLICY, WITH THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL, WITH MOMENTS AND MOTIVES OF SOCIAL PRACTICE;
- PHILOGIC RESEARCH WHICH, STARTING FROM A REVISION OF THE DOCUMENT AND THE HISTORICO-CRITICAL METHOD, TENDS TO CLARIFY THE HISTORICAL ROLES PLAYED BY THE ARCHITECT IN A POLICY OF INTERVENTION, AS AN INTELLECTUAL WORKER, MAKING CLEAR HIS POLITICAL CHOICE IN HIS TECHNICAL CHOICE (PRODUCTIVE);
- PRODUCTIVE CYCLES IN BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LABOUR-FORCE USED IN THE SECTOR;
- TECHNICAL FUNCTION IN THE EXPERIENCES OF PLANNING FROM THE BASIS.

THE SECOND PERIOD STRESSES THE SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS IN ITS GENERAL AND PARTICULAR ASPECT DIFFERENT TIMES AND PLACES OF DEVELOPMENT, BESIDES THE STUDY OF WORKING-CLASS CONDITIONS AND STRUGGLE. IT IS NOURISHED BY PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRODUCTIVE ORGANIZATION AND CAPITAL MOVEMENTS FOR AN INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY AND TERRITORY, BY THEORETIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STRUGGLES IN THE CITY AND THE STRUGGLES IN THE FACTORIES, AND BY PROBLEMS OF SPECIFIC MOMENTS OF PROLETARIAN MOBILIZATION.

WE TAKE NOTE OF SOME OF THE SPECIFIC SURVEYING POINTS:

- RELATION OF CONTRADICTIONS RELEVANT TO THE BIG CITY (FROM EUROPEAN MODELS TO THE VENETIAN), REFERRING THEM TO THE INDUSTRY AND THE HOUSES OF WORKING CLASSES (AND THEIR STRUGGLES);
- ANALYSIS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CLASHING SITUATIONS ON SPECIFIC ECONOMIC DECISIONS;
- RESEARCH WHICH TENDS TO "FIGURE OUT CONTRADICTIONS" RELEVANT TO THE SOCIAL STATE OF THE WORKING CLASS.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING CLASS LIVING (HOUSES AND SERVICES) IN THE CLASSIST CITY "IS TAKEN NOT TO DETECT THE BORDER-LINE, CA-

SES OF SOCIAL HARDSHIP, BUT TO DETERMINE WHICH PLACE THE WORKING CLASS OCCUPIES IN THE STRUCTURAL CONNECTIONS OF THE POLITICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY AND IN THE URBAN CULTURE";

- CRITICISM OF CULTURAL AND OPERATIVE INSTRUMENTS OF PLANNING (AND THE TECHNIQUES USED) TO START INTERVENTIONS FOR THE WORKING CLASS.

THE GROUPS OF ARCHITECTS WHO, STARTING FROM THE SOCIAL BATTLES IN 1968, HAVE SET THESE PROBLEMS AT THE CENTER OF THEIR INTERESTS, HAVE NOT REFERRED SO MUCH TO THE BEHAVIORS OF THOSE ARCHITECTS AND URBANISTS WHO HAVE BUILT UP ORDER IN ITALY, AS TO THE BEHAVIORS IN THE BATTLES OF TECHNICIANS AND IN THE INTELLECTUAL WORK OF THOSE GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHO IN THE SIXTIES HAVE CARRIED, ON THEIR ACTION OF IDEOLOGIC AND POLITICO-CULTURAL BREAK AGAINST THE PREVAILING BOURGEOIS CULTURE AND REVISIONISM IN THE POLITICO-THEORETIC MAGAZINES OF THE "NEW LEFT" AND CONCRETLY IN THE SOCIAL FIELD AS ACTIVISTS.

HERE ARE THE TITLES OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MAGAZINES OF THE NEW LEFT:

QUADERNI ROSSI	(1961-1964)
CLASSE OPERAIA	(1964-1967)
CONTROPIANO	(FROM 1968 ON)
QUADERNI PIACENTINI	(FROM 1966 - FIRST ISSUE IN 1962)
GIOVANE CRITICA	(FROM 1966 ON)
NUOVO IMPEGNO	(FROM 1965 ON)
CLASSE E STATO	(FROM 1965 ON)
LA SINISTRA	(1965-1967)
PROBLEMI DEL SOCIALISMO	(1966-1970)
BOLLETTINO DEL CENTRO INFORMAZIONI	(FROM 1966) THEN CHANGED INTO
LAVORO POLITICO	(FROM 1967)
CHE FARE	(FROM 1967)
IDEOLOGIE	(FROM 1967)
QUINQUICENT	(FROM 1967 TO 1969)
MONTHLY REVIEW	(IT. ED. FROM 1968 ON)
TESTIMONIANZE	(FROM 1967 ON)
DUESTITALIA	(FROM 1967 ON)

MANY OF THE PRESENT POSITIONS IN THESE MAGAZINES HAVE UNDERGONE A DECLINE TOWARDS ISOLATION AND INTELLECTUAL HYPERCRITICISM. THE MORE ACTUAL ONES TEND TO ACHIEVE A DEFINITE CONTRIBUTION IN THE PROCESS OF AGGREGATION-ORGANIZATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN ITALY, WHICH STARTED IN 1968.

TO ARCHITECTS THIS MEANT TO GET INVOLVED DIRECTLY AS A TECHNICAL FORCE BECOMING PROLETARIAN AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK IN THE SPECIFIC FIELDS IN WHICH THEY OPERATE; THIS ALSO MEANT TO CARRY ON A POLITICAL USE OF THEIR WORK WITH BOTH TAKING PART IN THE STRUGGLES, BORN FROM THE ANALYSED CONTRADICTIONS, IN THE AREAS, AND COMPARING THEIR DISCIPLINARY LIMITS WITH THE GLOBAL POLITICAL LEVEL AND WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE ACTIVE LEFT-WING ORGANIZATIONS, TO GIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEED OF LINKING, INFORMATION, CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRUGGLE IN THE COUNTRY.

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